

— Capsule Summary  
SM-560  
Raley House  
Leonardtown  
Private

1930-1940

— On January 8, 1919 Stanley and Ida Johnson purchased a twelve acre tract called "Orchard" on the north side of Fenwick Street in Leonardtown, Maryland. Soon after the transaction the Johnson's built a two story, combination house and store with a hip roof (SM-556) and then sold a 1.08 acre subdivided parcel to Stephen and Mildred Jones on March 3, 1920 who eventually erected a one-and-a-half story, craftsman-style bungalow (SM-547). A third house was built between the Johnson and Jones houses in the 1930s-1940s by the Johnson family for their adopted daughter Mary Lou and her husband James M. Raley. In the context of these two neighboring houses, the Raley dwelling illustrated not only the wide variety of house types open to Leonardtown's residents in the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s but also the repetition of some of these forms. The Raley house, for instance, resembles the Thrift House (SM-533) located at the southwest corner of Lawrence Avenue and Washington Street in Leonardtown.

— As one of three neighboring homes built by three inter-related families, the Raley house demonstrates the desire for families and relatives to live in close proximity to one another. These family-oriented subdivisions represent an important tradition still practiced throughout St. Mary's County. The house, therefore, contributes to the overall understanding of how the "Orchard" property developed over time, illustrates the important role family associations play in the built environment, and finally represents a good example of the house type. While the house has been sheathed with aluminum siding, it retains much of its original architectural fabric.

SM-560, Raley House

St. Mary's County

Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Modern, 1930-

Historic Period Theme:

Architecture

Resource Type

Category:

Building

Historic Environment:

Town

Historic Function and Use:

Residence

Known Design Source:

None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-560

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Raley House

and/or common

## 2. Location

N side of Fenwick Street just E of the intersection of Fenwick and Washington Streets

street & number

☐ not for publication

city, town Leonardtown

☐ vicinity of

congressional district 3

state Maryland

county St. Mary's

## 3. Classification

### Category

☐ district

☒ building(s)

☐ structure

☐ site

☐ object

### Ownership

☐ public

☒ private

☐ both

### Public Acquisition

☐ in process

☐ being considered

☒ not applicable

### Status

☒ occupied

☐ unoccupied

☐ work in progress

### Accessible

☒ yes: restricted

☐ yes: unrestricted

☐ no

### Present Use

☐ agriculture

☐ commercial

☐ educational

☐ entertainment

☐ government

☐ industrial

☐ military

☐ museum

☐ park

☒ private residence

☐ religious

☐ scientific

☐ transportation

☐ other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name George A. and Susan Ericksen

street & number PO Box 1058

telephone no.: (301) 475-2667

city, town Leonardtown

state and zip code Md 20650

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse

liber EWA 733

street & number

folio 83

city, town Leonardtown

state Md

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. SM-560

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The James and Mary Lou Raley house is located on the north side of Fenwick Street just east of the intersection of Washington and Fenwick Streets in Leonardtown, Maryland. The house is approached by a dirt road that passes perpendicular to the north-south orientation of the house. Closely bordered by the Jones house (SM-547) to the east and the Johnson House and Store (SM-556) to the west, the house is bounded on the south by the dirt road and to the north by a small yard. The dwelling is situated atop a small rise that overlooks Fenwick Street while the property descends to the north.

Constructed in the 1930s-1940s, the Raley House is a frame, two story, house with an exterior end chimney and gable roof. The entire house rests on a masonry foundation while the walls are sheathed with aluminum siding. The front (south) porch roof as well as main roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The primary (south) elevation is distinguished on the first floor by a screened-in porch supported by a series of four plain, square posts or columns. The entire porch, with the exception of the entrance, is bounded by a balustrade composed of square balusters with a top and bottom rail. Shaded by the porch are a group of three, six-over-one, double-hung sash windows and a glass pane door flanked by sidelights that extend the full length of door. The second floor, however, is composed of three, symmetrically placed six-over-one windows--each window with a pair of functional louvered shutters. At the juncture of the roof and walls is an enclosed cornice.

Other distinctive features on the dwelling include a one-story addition on the north elevation and the asymmetrical placement of windows on both gable ends. Most of these windows are also six-over-one sash.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-560

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

On January 8, 1919 Stanley and Ida Johnson purchased a twelve acre tract called "Orchard" on the north side of Fenwick Street in Leonardtown, Maryland. Soon after the transaction the Johnson's built a two story, combination house and store with a hip roof (SM-556) and then sold a 1.08 acre subdivided parcel to Stephen and Mildred Jones on March 3, 1920. The Jones family followed suit by building a one-and-a-half story, craftsman-style bungalow (SM-547). A third house was built in the 1930s-1940s by the Johnson family for their adopted daughter Mary Lou and her husband James M. Raley. While this two story, frame house resembled the Thrift House (SM-533) in overall form, the Raley dwelling illustrates the full variety of house types open to Leonardtown's residents in the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s. As one of three homes built by three inter-related families, the house also demonstrates the desire for families and relatives to live in close proximity to one another--in effect creating family-oriented subdivisions.

The house retains much of its original architectural fabric including its window sash, fenestration chimney stack, and overall form. While the house has been covered with aluminum siding, the siding does not greatly diminish its historic appearance.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-560

Interview with Ed Stokel. February 1997.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 20,909 sq ftQuadrangle name Leonardtown, MdQuadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Planning and Zoningdate February 1997street & number 22740 Washington Streettelephone (301) 475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
OWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2011

SM-560, Raley House  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-title (Please note that all records can be found in the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse in Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

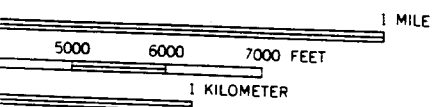
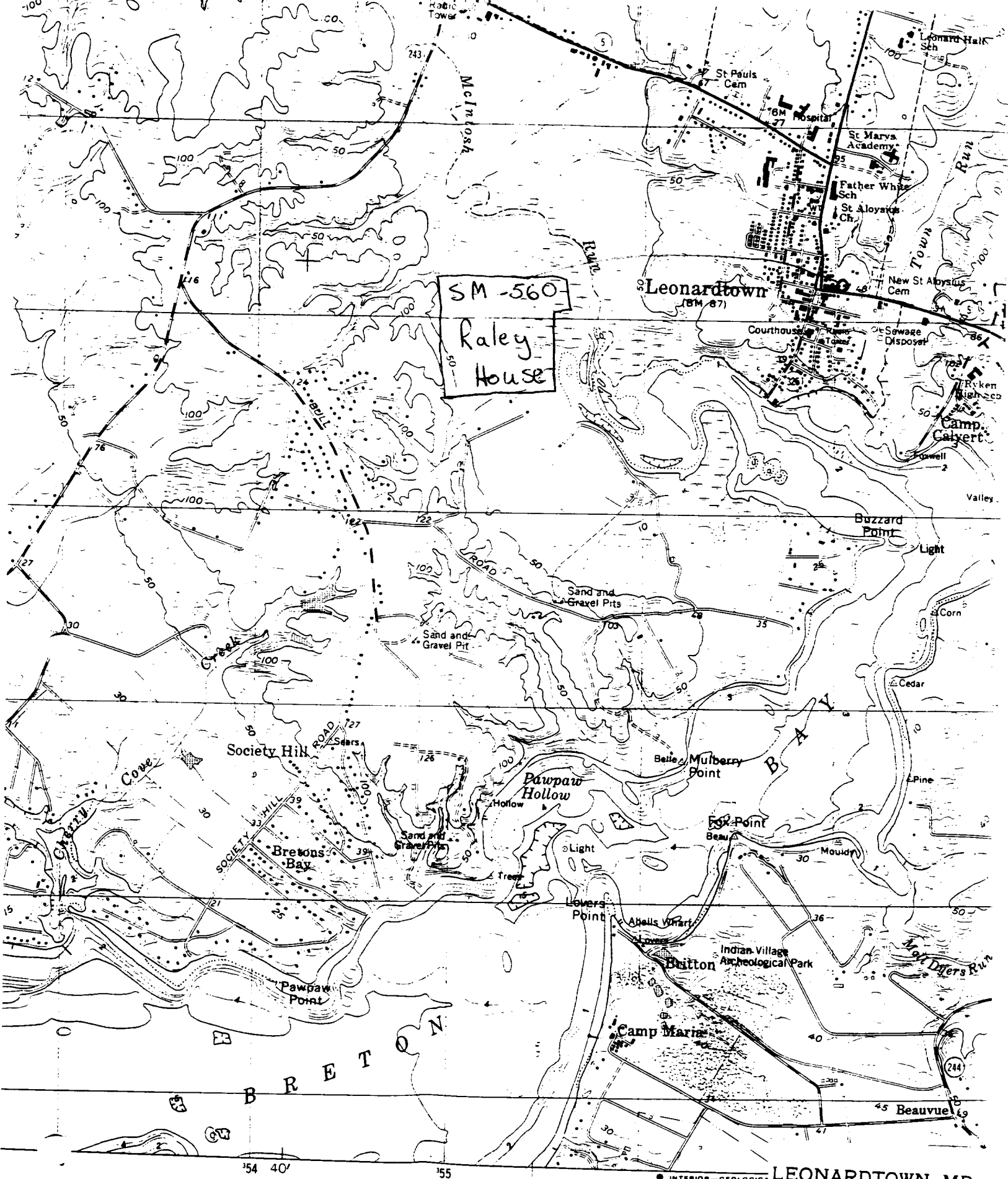
Reference: Liber EWA 733, Folio 83  
Grantee: George A. and Susan H. Erichsen  
Grantor: Gregory James Russell  
Date: November 24, 1992  
Notes: The Erichsen's purchased the property for \$132,000.

Reference: Liber MRB 511, Folio 239  
Grantee: Gregory James Russell  
Grantor: Denise Noel St. Clair  
Date: December 14, 1989

Reference: Liber MRB 437, Folio 69  
Grantee: Denise Noel St. Clair and Gregory James Russell  
Grantor: James M. and Mary Lou Raley  
Date: October 13, 1988

Reference: Liber DBK 198, Folio 113  
Grantee: James M. and Mary Lou Raley  
Grantor: William Aleck Loker and Robert E. Wigginton  
Date: September 26, 1973  
Notes: According to Ed Stokel, Mary Lou's parents Stanley and Ida Johnson erected the house in the early 1940s.

Reference: Liber EBA 17, Folio 456  
Grantee: I. Stanley and Ida F. Johnson  
Grantor: Mattie Maddox Key, et al  
Date: January 8, 1919  
Notes: The Johnson's purchase 12 acres called the "Orchard." The house, however, was not erected until the early-1940s.



LEONARDTOWN, MD.  
 SW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15 QUADRANGLE  
 38076-C6-TB-024  
 1963  
 BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982  
 PHOTOREVISED 1984  
 DMA 5660 I SW-SERIES V833





